WEIRD WORLDS

DEC 1970
50¢

FEATURING

the SPACE VAMPIRES

TOMORROW'S ATOMIC MONSTERS

THE GREEN HORROR

PLUS OTHER OUTER SPACE CREATURE FEATURES

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WEIRD WORLDS

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THE SPACE VAMPIRES

AND SO, A FLEET OF GIANT PALMOORAN WARSPACERS SWEEP PAST PLUTO AND NEPTUNE! WORD OF THEIR COMING IS CARRIED BY MICROWAVES!

GETTING SLEEPY... GOT TO SEND WORD OF THOSE SHIPS...

WITHIN FIVE MINUTES AFTER THE ATTACK, MEN STAND OR SIT OR LIE CRUMPLED ON THE METALLIC FLOOR-- SOUND ASLEEP...

NOT FAR AWAY, CAPTAIN DAN BENTON IS ON SCOUT PATROL DUTY! HIS WRISTIBEAMER CATCHES A FEW WORDS BEFORE SILENCE FALLS...

...SO SLEEPY... SHIPS FIRING BUT... NOTHING HAPPENS...

PLENTY HAPPENS! WHOEVER THEY ARE! THEY PUT YOU ALL TO SLEEP! BUT-- WHY?

ON BENTON'S RELAY BROADCAST, FLEET HEADQUARTERS AT MARS CITY ROARS INTO ACTION...

ALL HANDS TO SHIP! TAKE OFF TIME TWENTY-SEVEN ZERO!

THE SPACE FLEETS MEET WITH DARTING RAYS AND SCORCHING FIRE-BALLS THAT EAT THROUGH STEEL...

IN THE PALMOORA FLAGSHIP STANDS MYRZA, EYES BRIGHT WITH TRIUMPH...

WE'LL HAVE THEIR FINEST SOLDIERS HELPLESS IN A MATTER OF MINUTES!

THOUSANDS OF MEN! WITH THEIR VITAL *LIFEFORCE* INTACT! WE'LL TAKE THEM TO PALMOORA!

LATER IN THE COUNCIL ROOM OF THE FLAGSHIP OF THE ALIEN FLEET...
WE'LL TREAT THESE PEOPLE WELL-- UNTIL SUCH TIME AS WE NEED THEIR BLOOD!

WORD OF THE TERRIBLE DEFEAT BRINGS DISMAY TO THE EARTH-MARS HIGH COMMAND...
WE'LL HAVE TO PULL SHIPS OFF VENUS AND MERCURY! BRING THEM IN AROUND EARTH AND MARS!
IF WE COULD ONLY LEARN WHAT WEAPON THEY USE!
WE HAVE A MAN OUT THERE NOW... SCOUTING!

AT THAT MOMENT, BENTON IS LANDING ON AN ASTEROID OUTSIDE JUPITER...
THOSE ALIENS ARE DOING A LOT OF BUILDING! I WANT TO TAKE A LOOK!

BY MAKING OBSERVATIONS AND MICROFILM REPORTS, I'LL WARN HEADQUARTERS OF WHAT GOES OUT HERE!

YOU MUST ALLOW FOR TORPEDO TUBES TO PROJECT THROUGH THE GLASS AIR ENCLOSURE!
IT SHALL BE DONE, HIGHNESS!

WHY ARE THEY BUILDING HERE, WHEN THEY COULD GO INTO MARS CITY? DON'T THEY KNOW THAT OUR CRIPPLED FLEET IS NO PROTECTION FOR MARS AND EARTH?

WE MIGHT NOT HAVE KNOWN THAT BEFORE--BUT WE KNOW IT NOW! GET HIM... ALIVE!
WHY DO THEY WANT ME ALIVE? BE A LOT EASIER JUST TO RAY ME DOWN! THIS DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!

YIELD, BEFORE WE ARE FORCED TO BLAST YOU INTO SMOKE!
TRY TAKING ME!

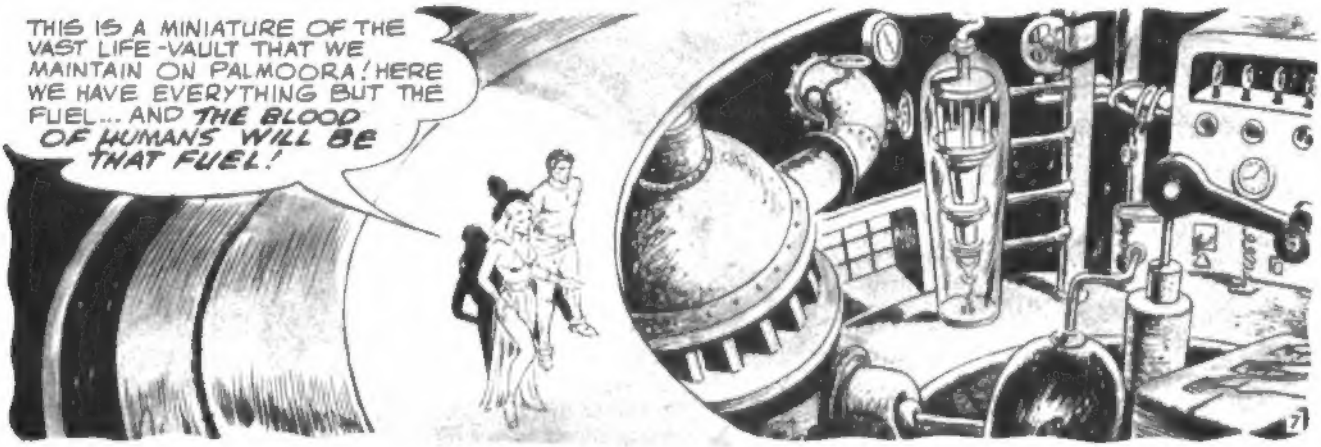
GOT TO GET ROOM TO USE MY BEAM GUN!

BENTON WHIRLS, HIS ELECTRONIC HANDGUN BLASTS AGAIN AND AGAIN...
NOW... TO GET TO MY SHIP AND RELAY THOSE MICROFILMS...

I'LL TRIP HIM UP! YOU OTHERS GO AFTER HIM!
WHAT THE....!

WE HAVE HIM!
HE'LL MAKE A GOOD OFFERING TO THE LIFE-VAULTS! THERE'S PLENTY OF LIFE IN HIM!
HE IS A TOUGH ONE!

BLEEDING AND EXHAUSTED... BENTON IS DRAGGED BEFORE THE CRUEL BUT LOVELY MYRZA...
IF HE IS SUCH A FIGHTER, I WILL MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF HIM! BRING HIM ALONG WITH ME!


THIS IS A MINIATURE OF THE VAST LIFE-VAULT THAT WE MAINTAIN ON PALMOORA! HERE WE HAVE EVERYTHING BUT THE FUEL... AND THE BLOOD OF HUMANS WILL BE THAT FUEL!

OUR FIRST OFFERING... A SOLDIER OF YOUR FLEET! WATCH CLOSELY, EARTHLING!

AS THE NEURALISIS RODS BEGIN TO ROTATE, THE MAN ON THE LIFE-VAULT BED BEGINS TO SHRINK! POWER IS BEING DRAWN FROM HIS BODY!

MAD WITH RAGE AND HORROR, BENTON DIVES FORWARD...
WHY, YOU! VAMPIRES! PREYING ON OTHER LIVING BEINGS!
YOU FOOL!

YOU DARE ATTACK ME! I AM IMMORTAL, EARTH FOOL!

I WILL PROVE IT TO YOU! THEN YOU WILL BE OFFERED TO THE LIFE-VAULT!

MOVE ALONG, EARTH MAN, BUT REMEMBER... I AM JUST BEHIND YOU!
I GUESS MY PEOPLE ARE CHILDREN WHEN IT COMES TO SCIENCES LIKE YOURS! IF... IF I COULD JOIN YOU...?

WE COULD USE SOMEONE TO LURE EARTHMEN INTO OUR TRAPS!
ALL I ASK IS... A CHANCE!
GOT TO HAVE TIME... I MUST STALL HER...

YOU MUST WEAR MY JEWEL! IT PROTECTS YOU FROM THE SLEEP RAY BY ABSORBING THE VIBRATIONS! WITHOUT IT, WE, TOO, WOULD FALL ASLEEP...

I'LL WEAR IT FOR YOU, MYRZA!

IT IS NICE TO HEAR THINGS LIKE THAT!

ALL I WANT IS TO SERVE YOU... PERHAPS TO BE YOUR PERSONAL ASSISTANT...

IF BENTON DOES NOT CONVINCE HER THAT HE IS TELLING THE TRUTH--HIS BODY WILL SHRINK TO NOTHINGNESS IN THE LIFE-VAULT!

MYRZA THROWS HER ARMS AROUND HIM, AND WHISPERS IN HIS EAR...

IF YOU DO MEAN WHAT YOU SAY, **PROVE** IT TO ME! I WILL TAKE YOU BELOW WHERE WE SHIP QUICK-FROZEN EARTH MEN TO PALMOORA TO FEED OUR LIFE-DYNAMOS!

OUR BROADCAST FILTERS MUST CHARGE TO THE FULL BEFORE WE CAN SEND THESE MEN TO PALMOORA! GIVE ME FIVE MORE HOURS!

VERY WELL! FIVE MORE HOURS! COME, BENTON!

UNTIL THAT TIME, YOU MUST REMAIN HERE! AMUSE YOURSELF FOR A WHILE!

BENTON MOVES ABOUT THE LABORATORY! HIS SCIENTIFICALLY TRAINED MIND RECOGNIZES VARIOUS MACHINES!

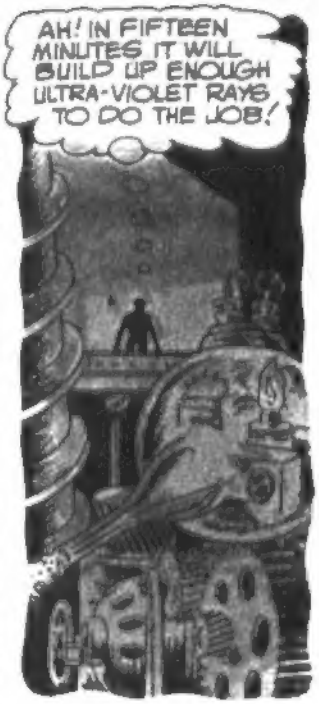
HMM... AN ULTRA-VIOLET RAY LAMP! BUT WHAT'S IT LOCKED TIGHT FOR? YOU'D THINK IT WAS A DANGEROUS WEAPON...

AS BENTON WORKS LOOSE THE LOCK THAT PROTECTS THE ULTRA-VIOLET LAMP, HE IS AMAZED...

MAYBE THIS LAMP IS THE ANSWER TO MY PROBLEM! NO WONDER THEY'VE ENCLOSED THEIR CITY IN A POLAROID GLASS BUBBLE!

THE ULTRA-VIOLET RAY IS MELTING THE PROTECTIVE JEWEL THAT MYRZA GAVE ME! NO WONDER MYRZA WANTED NO OXYGEN LEAKING OUT! BECAUSE IF OXYGEN COULD LEAK OUT-- ULTRA-VIOLET RAYS FROM SUNLIGHT COULD LEAK IN!

BENTON HURRIEDLY BUILDS A GIGANTIC ULTRA-BEAM-WAVE TRANSMITTER...
I'LL EQUIP THIS THING WITH A MOTOR THAT WILL REVOLVE IT... BUILD UP ULTRA-VIOLET RAYS AND BROADCAST THEM THROUGHOUT THIS ASTEROID FORT!


AH! IN FIFTEEN MINUTES IT WILL BUILD UP ENOUGH ULTRA-VIOLET RAYS TO DO THE JOB!

ULTRA-VIOLET LIGHT IS INVISIBLE TO THE NAKED EYE, SO, MYRZA SEES NOTHING TO ALARM HER...
WHAT IS IT THAT YOU ARE BUILDING, BENTON? IT JUST KEEPS TURNING AROUND AND AROUND!
A SURPRISE FOR YOU, MIGHTY PRINCESS! BUT COME! IT MUST BE TIME FOR MY TEST OF LOYALTY!

THIS IS WHERE WE PLACE QUICK-FROZEN HUMANS, AND SHOOT THEM THROUGH SPACE TO PALMOORA!

AND THIS IS HOW I'M GOING TO SMASH YOUR ATTEMPT TO DRINK THE LIFE BLOOD OF HUMAN BEINGS!
WHAT??

QUICK-- YOU OTHERS! THE METABOLISIRAY! PUT HIM TO SLEEP-- THEN-- INTO THE LIFE VAULT!
NO YOU DON'T-- BY SMASHING THIS SWITCH, I'VE HALTED YOUR BROADCAST POWER BEAMS!

SNARLING WITH ANGER, THE EVIL WARRIORS HURL THEMSELVES ON CAPTAIN BENTON...
GOT TO GIVE MY ULTRA-VIOLET RAY ROTOR TIME TO GET TO WORK...

HALF ASLEEP BENTON PITCHES FORWARD AS A PALMOORAN WARRIOR LUNGES AT HIM FOR THE COUP-DE-GRACE...
NO USE! THOSE SLEEP RAYS ARE SWEEPING THE ENTIRE PLACE PUTTING ME TO SLEEP...

AND THEN, THE PALMOORAN WARRIOR PITCHES FORWARD, UNCONSCIOUS...
METABOLISIRAYS MAKING US SLEEP... OUR JEWELS NOT PROTECTING US...

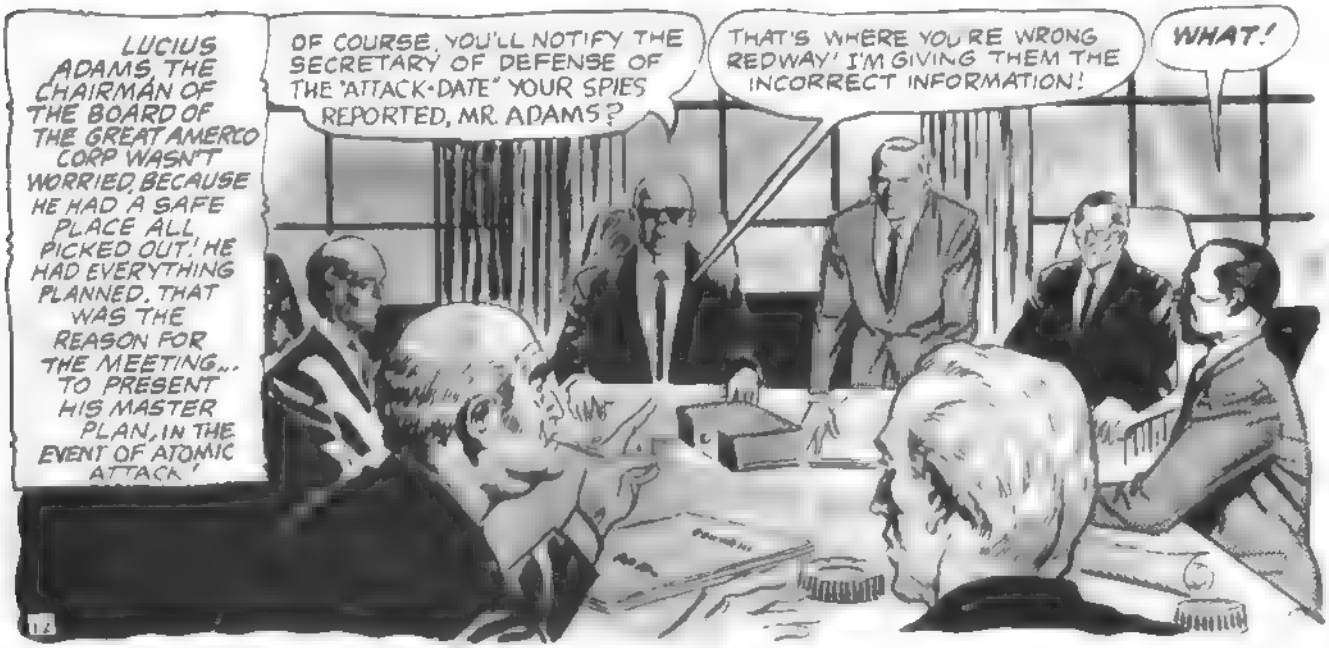
THESE JEWELS--MELTING! OUR SLEEP RAYS WILL PUT US TO SLEEP NOW AND WITH SLEEP, THE LIFE FORCE WILL NOT FUNCTION... WE WILL DIE... DIE!

WHEN CAPT BENTON OPENS HIS EYES AND STAGGERS ERECT, DEATH IS ALL ABOUT HIM...
DEAD! ALL OF THEM--DEAD! THE SLEEP RAYS... THAT ONLY PUTS US TO SLEEP--KILLS THEM!

THE LOVELY BUT EVIL MYRZA--GONE! VANISHED LIKE HER DREAMS OF CONQUEST!

WE CAN GO TO PALMOORA NOW--WIPE OUT THIS VAMPIRE RACE! FIND A NEW PLANETARY SYSTEM WAITING FOR US TO MAKE SAFE FOR MANKIND AND PEACE--FOREVER!

THE ATOMIC MONSTERS



OH, YOU'LL BE SAFE GENTLEMEN... A MILE UNDERGROUND IN A LEAD-SEALED CITY! BUT I'VE LAID A MILLION ON THE LINE FOR MY INFORMATION... I'M NOT SHARING IT WITH WEAKLINGS!
ONLY THE FITTEST WILL SURVIVE THE BLOW... AND WE SHALL BE THOSE FITTEST WE SHALL SURVIVE TO RULE!

BECAUSE OF THE WORLD TENSION THAT HAD BEEN BUILDING UP TO THIS CRISES FOR OVER FORTY YEARS, DAVE WILLIAMSON AND HIS WIFE SPENT SUNDAY, APRIL 19TH, 1987 AT HOME IN THEIR GROUND FLOOR APARTMENT...
DAVE I'M SO SCARED!
DON'T BE, DARLING!

THE ENEMY WON'T STRIKE UNTIL SUNDAY, MAY 24TH! THE BOSS KNOWS, HONEY! BY THEN WE'LL ALL BE HOUSED BELOW GROUND UNTIL IT'S OVER! THE WHOLE CITY! ADAMS HAS GIVEN HIS WORD... QUIETLY, OF COURSE!
I SUPPOSE HE WOULDN'T SHOUT HIS SECRET...BUT FIFTEEN MILLION PEOPLE IN ONE HIDEOUT... IT'S FANTASTIC!

EVEN AS DAVE WILLIAMSON ASSURED HIS WIFE, ENEMY SUPER-JETS WERE OVERHEAD... ABOUT TO SPREAD DESTRUCTION AND CEMENT ADAMS' MONSTROUS DOUBLE-CROSS AGAINST HIS FRIENDS.. AND HIS COUNTRY...

THE NIGHT OF APRIL 19TH, 1987 WOULD NEVER BE FORGOTTEN... IF ANYONE LIVED TO REMEMBER..THE ENEMY STRUCK!

HE LIED! ADAM LIED!
OH, DAVE... DAVE!

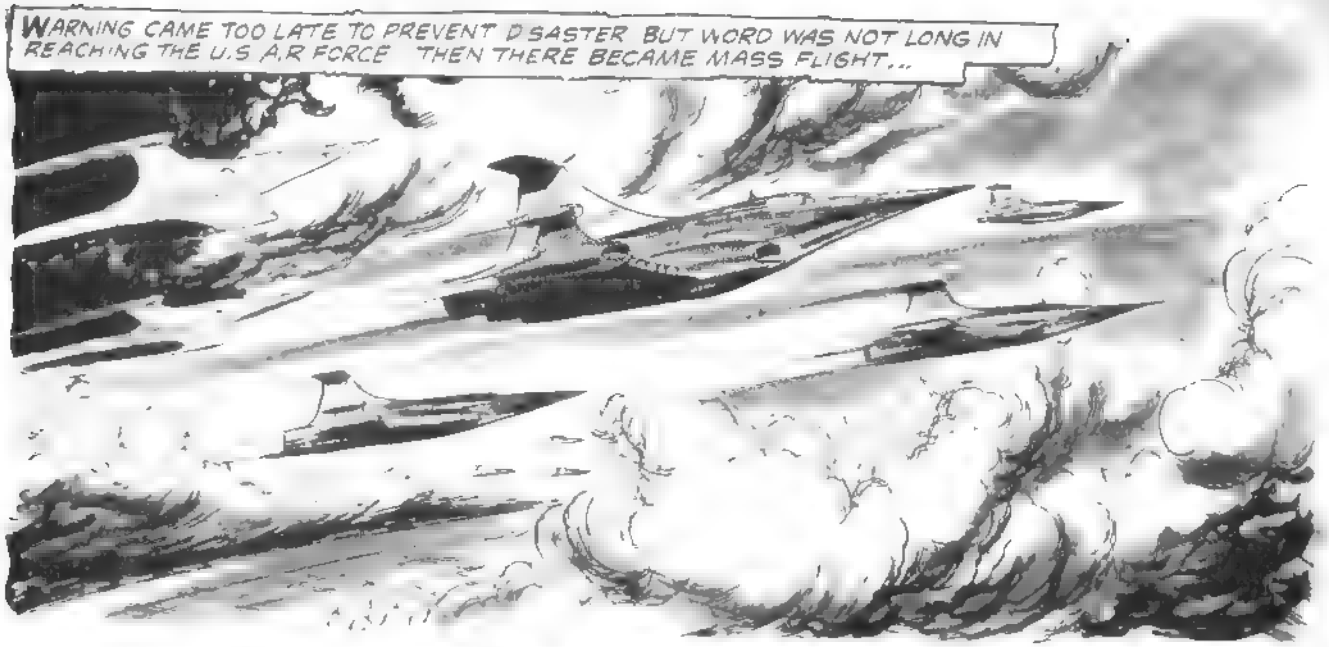
BUT WHEN THE WORLD IS CRUMBLING, YOU CANNOT STOP TO BE PERSONAL ABOUT YOUR FEELINGS...

...YOU CAN ONLY PIT YOUR STRENGTH AGAINST THE HOPELESS ODDS THAT ENGULF YOU AND FIGHT FOR ONE MORE MOMENT... WITH YOUR BELOVED!

...AND HOPE VAINLY THAT THERE MAY BE SOME MIRACLE AT THE LAST INSTANT THAT WILL FREE YOU...
HELP... HELP!! GET US OUT OF HERE!!

OUT OF HERE! OUT OF-- HERE! GET US...UH--NNN...

Then FOLLOWED A BLANKET OF ATOMIC DUST, THAT WOULD RIDE EVERY WIND AND BLANKET THE CITY... AND... THE WHOLE CONTINENT...


WARNING CAME TOO LATE TO PREVENT DISASTER BUT WORD WAS NOT LONG IN REACHING THE U.S. AIR FORCE THEN THERE BECAME MASS FLIGHT...

...AND RETALIATION AGAINST THE ENEMY!

AND THEIR FIELDS ALSO WERE LAID WASTE...

...WITH FIRE AND FURY!

...AND WHEN THE SOUND AND FURY HAD DIED AWAY, A WORLD LAY DEAD AND DECAYING!
BUT IF A WORLD HAD DIED, ITS SELF APPOINTED NEW RULERS WERE FAR FROM DEAD. A MILE BELOW THE EARTH, A PARTY WAS IN PROGRESS...
ARE YOU SORRY, LUCIUS, THAT YOU BROUGHT ME WITH YOU INSTEAD OF YOUR WIFE?
THE DEVIL, SWEET! ONLY BEAUTIFUL WOMEN DESERVE SURVIVAL!
IT'S RATHER HIDEOUS TO THINK OF LUCIUS' WIFE!
GENIUS DOES NOT COME WITHIN MORAL BOUNDS, MY DEAR!
MERELY BE THANKFUL FOR HIS ACCEPTING US!

THE HUGE UNDERGROUND RETREAT WAS MORE THAN THAT! IT WAS A FACTORY FOR PRODUCING ATOMIC WEAPONS, AND ADAMS HAD BUILT IT WITH FUNDS BORROWED FROM THE COUNTRY HE HAD BETRAYED... AND HERE HE HAD BROUGHT TWO THOUSAND MEN...
BUT WE'VE BROUGHT NO TECHNICAL MEN, LUCIUS... ONLY AUTOMATONS... ...—SLAVES! THERE'S NOT A BRAIN IN THE LOT!
WE WANT BRAWNY MEN... TO SUBDUE THOSE WHO WERE STRONG ENOUGH TO SURVIVE THE ATTACK!

THE TIME PASSED.. WEEKS INTO MONTHS MONTHS INTO YEARS... AND NO DICTATOR EVER HAD MORE POWER THAN LUCIUS ADAMS HAD OVER HIS COMPANY.

SOMETIMES WORKERS WOULD GO 'STIR CRAZY'... THEY WOULD BE SHOT.

POWER! I HAVE ALL THE POWER IN THE WORLD! I WILL OWN THE WORLD!!

THOSE WHO COMPLAINED ABOUT THE FOOD RATIONS WERE ALLOWED TO STARVE ALONE AS AN EXAMPLE TO THE OTHERS...

THEN ON THURSDAY MAY 4TH, 1995 EIGHT YEARS AND FOURTEEN DAYS AFTER GOING UNDERGROUND...

LOOK LUCIUS... THIS GEIGER COUNTER INDICATES THAT THE SURFACE IS FREE ENOUGH OF RADIOACTIVITY FOR US TO GO UP!

IT'S WHAT WE'VE ALL WAITED FOR! WE'LL PREPARE TO TAKE OVER AT ONCE, BEFORE ANY SURVIVORS CAN BECOME ESTABLISHED IN ANY GREAT STRENGTH!

THE ELEVATOR MACHINERY HAD BEEN DESTROYED IN THE FIRST BOMBING, SO THE LONG STRETCH TO THE SURFACE HAD TO BE MADE STRAIGHT UPWARD BY NARROW LADDER...

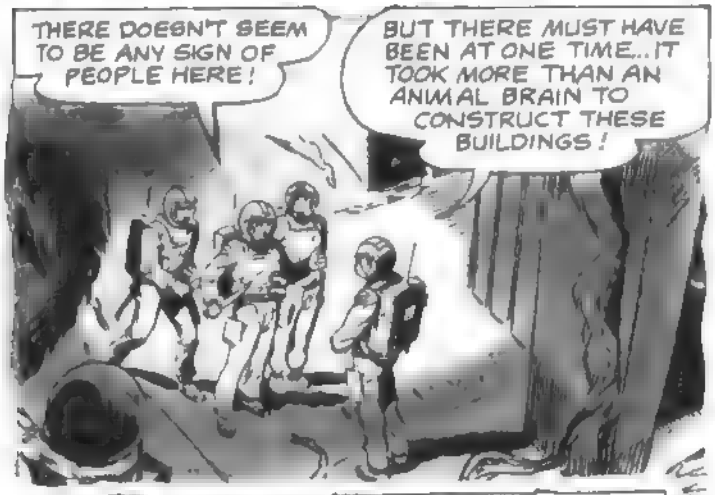
FOR HOUR AFTER HOUR THEY CLIMBED... AND AT LAST... SUNLIGHT...

I'LL BE, LOOK!

SOMEHOW THEY'VE SURVIVED! BLAST DOWN THOSE BUILDINGS... NOW! THIS IS WAR TO THE FINISH!

HOLD YOUR FIRE, ADAMS! IT WILL DO YOU NO GOOD!
YOU WON'T REMEMBER ME... BUT I'M DAVE WILLIAMSON! THIS IS CORA... MY WIFE!
DAVE... W... THANK GOD! I-- I THOUGHT... BUT.. WHAT... HOW?
SOME OF US... THE FITTEST.. SURVIVED, ADAMS! AND WE'RE IMMUNE TO RADIOACTIVITY... WE'RE REBUILDING THE CITY! WE HAVE A WORLD-WIDE ORGANIZATION. AT LAST WE LIVE IN PEACE!
WE COULD HAVE ROUTED YOU OUT, BUT WE KNEW SOONER OR LATER, YOU'D COME BY YOURSELVES!
THEN DAVE WILLIAMSON SHOUTED A CALL, AND...
UNDER RADIOACTIVITY STRANGE THINGS HAPPENED TO US PHYSICALLY! SOME OF US DID NOT FARE SO WELL AS CORA AND I. BUT WE GET ALONG, AND IN OUR NEW WORLD, ADAMS, THERE IS NO ROOM FOR WEAKLINGS! ONLY THE FITTEST CAN SURVIVE!
A-I-Y-Y-Y-Y! AR-GH-H-H-H!
THE END

THE GREEN HORROR

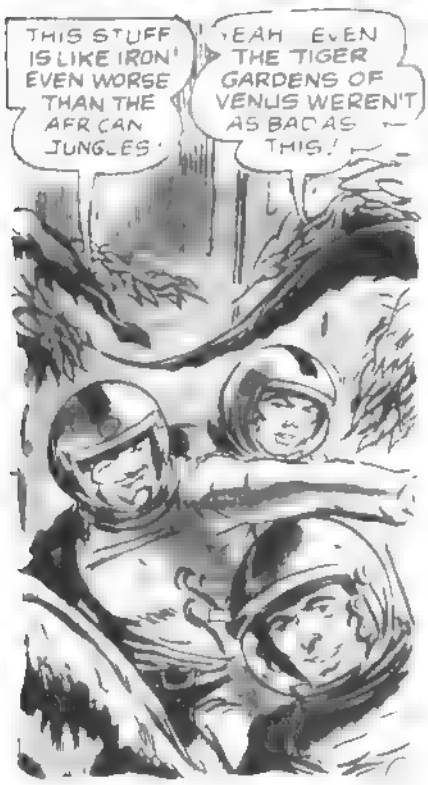


THE MEN MADE THEIR WAY INTO THE CRUMBLED BUILDING... AND FOUND WHAT THEY LOOKED FOR...

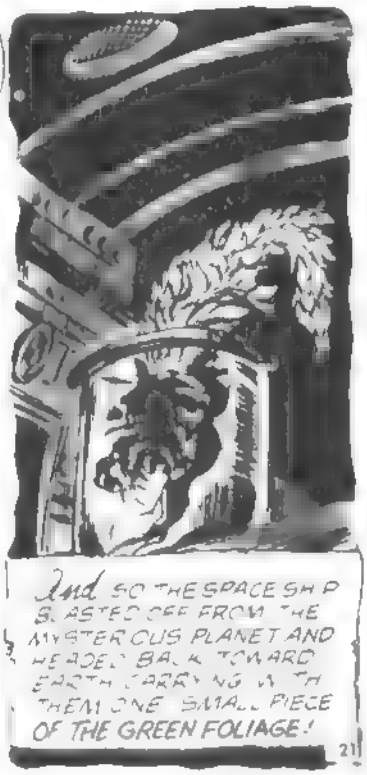
HA! THEY LOOK LIKE GREEN DRAGONS!
WELL, WHAT'S YOUR ANSWER DOC.. GOT ANY IDEA ABOUT THIS MENACE?
HEY, CAP'N, LET'S GET OUTA HERE... THESE WEEDS ARE BEGINNING TO ACT UP!
YEAH. THIS ONE'S TRYING TO GET AT MY CANTEEN... I'D SWEAR IT WAS ALIVE!

I'M WAITING DOC. DO WE STAY HERE OR NOT?
SINCE WERE NOT PREPARED TO BATTLE ANY STRANGE MENACE I GUESS WE MIGHT AS WELL HEAD BACK TO EARTH. C'MON LET'S GET BACK TO THE SHIP!

LOOK! THAT STUFF IS COVERING UP OUR SHIP!
C'MON LET'S GET AT IT OR WE'LL NEVER GET OFF THIS PLACE!
HMMM I WONDER!


THIS STUFF IS LIKE IRON! EVEN WORSE THAN THE AFRICAN JUNGLES!
YEAH EVEN THE TIGER GARDENS OF VENUS WEREN'T AS BAD AS THIS!

C'MON DOC! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE WHILE WE CAN
BE RIGHT WITH YOU SCOTT... THINK I'LL TAKE A SPRIG OF THIS STUFF ALONG WITH US. MIGHT PROVE INTERESTING!


And SO THE SPACE SHIP BLASTED OFF FROM THE MYSTERIOUS PLANET AND HEADED BACK TOWARD EARTH CARRYING WITH THEM ONE SMALL PIECE OF THE GREEN FOLIAGE!

HMM, THAT'S FUNNY.. ALL THE GAUGES THAT WORK ON WATER PRESSURE SEEM TO BE GOING DOWN! CHARLIE... YOU'D BETTER GO BACK INTO THE STOREROOM AND CHECK THOSE LINES!

STOREROOM? THINK I'LL GO ALONG WITH YOU.. JUST A HUNCH!

LOOKS LIKE A MONSTER BUT IT WONT ATTACK US! ... BUT IT HAS GROWN SO BIG! ... THE WATER ... AHA!

WOW! LOCK AT THAT STUFF AND IT'S CLOGGING UP THE LINES!

NOW I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CIVILIZATION ON THAT PLANET! THIS IS THE MENACE THAT DROPPED FROM THE SKY!

... SO YOU'VE FOUND THE ANSWER! WELL, WHAT IS IT?

THAT TYPE OF VEGETATION SURVIVES ON ANY KIND OF MOISTURE! AFTER LANDING ON THE PLANET IT SOUGHT OUT ALL FORMS OF WETNESS AND EVENTUALLY SOAKED IT UP! LEAVING THEM WITHOUT WATER! THAT'S WHAT DESTROYED THE CIVILIZATION!

BUT WE'LL BE ABLE TO DESTROY IT AS SOON AS WE LAND ON EARTH! OUR SCIENTISTS WILL FIND THE ANSWER!
BUT IT MIGHT TAKE YEARS...AND BY THE TIME THEY DO, THE ENTIRE EARTH WILL BE DEHYDRATED AND ANOTHER CIVILIZATION WILL BE DESTROYED!
C'MON, MEN... KEEP HACKING IT!
WE'RE TRYING CAP'N, BUT IT'S TOUGH GOING! THIS STUFF KEEPS SPLITTING!
IT'S NO USE, SIR... THERE'S NO WAY OF GETTING RID OF IT!!
AND WITH OUR HYDRAULIC LINES CLOGGED OUR ONLY CHOICE IS TO LAND ON EARTH!
WE CAN'T DO THAT SCOTT WE JUST CAN'T
AS THE SHIP NEARED EARTH THE MEN CAME TO A DECISION... A DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO SAVE THE ENTIRE WORLD FROM THE GREEN HORROR!
...AND THAT'S THE WHOLE STORY DR. ROBERTS! WE HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE! GO AHEAD WITH OUR PLAN "X"!
BUT WE CAN'T! IT'LL MEAN..
YOU HEARD WHAT HE SAID... IT'S WE WHO ARE TAKING THE RISK!
IT'S THE ONLY WAY WE CAN SAVE THE EARTH!
ARRRGH!
And SO THE PLAN WAS PUT INTO EFFECT... A SECONDS LATER, AN ATOMIC BLAST DESTROYED THE SPACECRAFT AND CREW!
AND ON EARTH A TINY SPRIG OF GREEN FALLS FROM THE SKY! HOW LONG BEFORE THE END?
THE END

THE CREATURE

BACK THROUGH THE FAR REACHES OF TIME, IN THE FEARSOME JUNGLES OF **PREHISTORIC ATHALA**, WHEN THE EARTH WAS YOUNG, **JACK RANCE** BATTLES FOR HIS **LIFE** AND THE LOVE OF THE BEAUTIFUL, **MYSTERIOUS** PRINCESS ... IN THE ... **LOST KINGDOM OF ATHALA !!**

AWESOME MISSION! CONFRONTING THE EERIE UNKNOWN CAN STRIKE TERROR INTO THE BRAVEST HEART!
TRY AND BE CAREFUL, LADS!
WE WILL! WE'LL MAKE IT ALL RIGHT!
WE HOPE!
BACK THROUGH THE TIME STREAM THEY'RE PLUNGED! YESTERDAY, THE DAY BEFORE... LAST WEEK... WITH CONSTANT ACCELERATION, THE MONTHS, THE YEARS... A CENTURY IS NOW ONLY A MINUTE... ERAS ARE FLASHING PAST!
WE'RE PAST, 10,000 B.C.!
GREGG'S LETTER NAMED THE YEAR WHERE WE MUST STOP!
A LIFELESS, STEAMING, PRIMITIVE JUNGLE! LIFELESS? SUDDENLY...
...THE ERA OF GIANT MAMMALS!!
THIS IS THE YEAR HE NAMED!
SURE LOOKS WILD AROUND HERE-- NOW!
A DINOSAUR!
WOW! W-WHAT'LL WE DO?
RUN! RUN!
YEAH, BUT WHERE?
THEN SUDDENLY...
LOOK! STONE AGE HUMANS! THE CAVEMEN!
YOU FOOLS! RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!
THIS WAY TOMMY! RUN!
THAT GIRL... SHE SPEAKS ENGLISH!

MYSTERIOUS GIRL LEADER SPEAKING THEIR OWN MODERN ENGLISH, HOW COULD THIS BE A CAVE-WOMAN? WITH THE MONSTERS MOMENTARILY BEATEN BACK, RANCE AND TOMMY ARE SUDDENLY SEIZED BY THE CAVEMEN...
HEY, WHAT'S THE IDEA?
STAND STILL OR I WILL HAVE YOU KILLED!
WHY-- WHY...

THEN IN A NEARBY CAVE...
WE CAN'T FIGHT THEM... NOT NOW!
I DON'T GET IT!

LOOK HERE, MAYBE YOU CAN SPEAK ENGLISH, TOO, CAN YOU?
FOOD! WELL, AT LEAST THEY ARE NOT GOING TO LET US STARVE!

YOU GOING TO DIE! SHE-- PRINCESS RHOA-- SHE KILL YOU!
THAT'S CHEERFUL NEWS!

And AFTER A DAY AND INTO A NIGHT, AGAIN THE CAVE-GIRL SERVANT COMES, AND...
THE PRINCESS RHOA-- SHE WANT SEE YOU NOW!
OH, SHE DOES? WELL THAT'S WHAT WE WANT, TOO!

PRINCESS RHOA! IMPERIOUS, SAVAGELY CRUEL! BEAUTIFUL CREATURE OF MYSTERY!
YOU, RHOA-- LOOK HERE, WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS? WHO ARE YOU?
YOU DARE TO QUESTION ME?

THEN AT LAST, WITH HER WORDS OF HATRED, THEY UNDERSTAND! DR. GREGG AND HIS WIFE ARE LONG SINCE DEAD! THIS IS THEIR DAUGHTER, BORN HERE! HER PARENTS HAD FLED FROM THEIR OWN MODERN WORLD, HATING IT!
I HATE YOU AS MY POOR FATHER AND MOTHER HATED YOU ALL!
BUT, RHOA...

YOU AND YOURS COULD BRING ONLY DISASTER TO MY WORLD! I WILL NOT HAVE IT! YOU SHALL DIE! MY POOR, STRUGGLING PEOPLE WANT NONE OF YOUR GREED...OR ATOMIC BOMBS THAT MAKES NATIONS TREMBLE!

YOUR WORLD IS THE SAME NOW, ISN'T IT? TELL ME!
WELL, I SUPPOSE PRETTY MUCH THE SAME, RHOA! BUT THERE ARE GOOD THINGS IN IT!

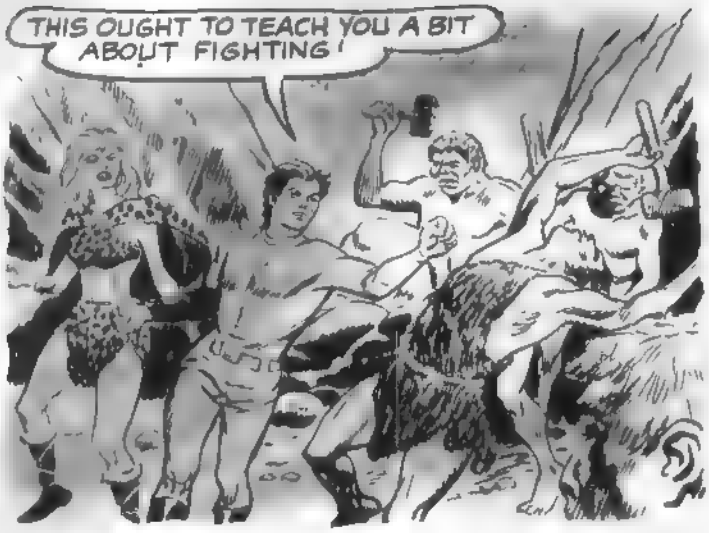
WILD PRINCESS OF THE STONE AGE! YET WITHIN HER THE WOMAN'S INSTINCT IS THE SAME, AND THIS IS THE FIRST YOUNG MAN OF HER OWN KIND SHE HAS EVER SEEN...
YOU MUST TELL ME MORE ABOUT YOUR WORLD!
HEY, SOMETHING WRONG'S GOING ON OUT THERE! SOMEBODY'S COMING!

WHAT IS THIS? SPEAK UP, MAN! I'VE TAUGHT YOU A LITTLE ENGLISH! SAY IT--QUICKLY!
THING TERRIBLE, PRINCESS! OGG'S MEN--THEY COME RAIDING US!

IT HAD HAPPENED BEFORE... PLUNDERING MEN OF THE NEIGHBORING TRIBE, LED BY THE GIANT OGG, RAIDING RHOA'S LITTLE CAVE SETTLEMENT, CARRYING OFF THE YOUNG GIRLS!!

HOW DARE THEY? I SHALL ATTACK THEM!
TELL US WHAT WE CAN DO TO HELP!

THEN SUDDENLY...
OGG! IT IS OGG!
WE'LL SHOW 'EM WHERE THEY GET OFF!


THIS OUGHT TO TEACH YOU A BIT ABOUT FIGHTING!

BUT AGAINST SO MANY RUTHLESS KILLERS, RANCE AND TOMMY HAVE NO CHANCE...
TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF ME, YOU MISERABLE VILLAINS!

LATER, RANCE REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS!
POOR TOMMY! THOSE WRETCHES KILLED HIM!
AND PRINCESS RHOA--GONE! THEY TOOK HER!

THEN A MOMENT LATER...
WHICH WAY DID THEY GO?
THAT WAY! THAT WAY!

THROUGH THE LONG NIGHT HOURS THE SEEKING RANCE PROWLS! FROM EVERY STEAMING GLADE, FROM BEHIND EVERY FROWNING CRAG, IT SEEMS THAT GIANT THINGS ARE LURKING!!
NO SIGN OF OGG'S MEN!

THEN AT LAST HE SEES OGG'S SLEEPING ENCAMPMENT, AND...
UGH!
ONLY THIS ONE GUARD!

QUIET, RHOA! DON'T CALL OUT! I'VE COME FOR...
OOOHH...

WILDLY, THEY FLEE INTO THE STEAMING JUNGLE! BUT BEHIND THEM THE ALARM IS SOUNDING!

BREATHLESS, TIRED, THEY REST FOR A MOMENT, SECLUDED IN A STEAMING GLADE!
YOU SEE, THERE IS EVIL IN YOUR WORLD, TOO, RHOA! THAT IS THE HERITAGE YOU GAVE TO MY WORLD!

I LOVE YOU, RHOA DEAR! I'M TAKING YOU BACK HOME WITH ME!

YOU--YOU TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF ME!

BUT THEN..
YOU CAN'T DENY IT, RHOA DEAR!
I DO LOVE YOU! I DO!

ELUDING THE GIANT, PURSUING MONSTERS, AT LAST THEIR GOAL IS IN SIGHT!
YES, YES!
THERE IT IS, RHOA! THE TIME MACHINE! WE'LL MAKE IT!

SAFETY AT LAST! BUT THEN SUDDENLY...
OGG!

GRIM AND DESPERATE COMBAT... THEN...
GOT YOU!

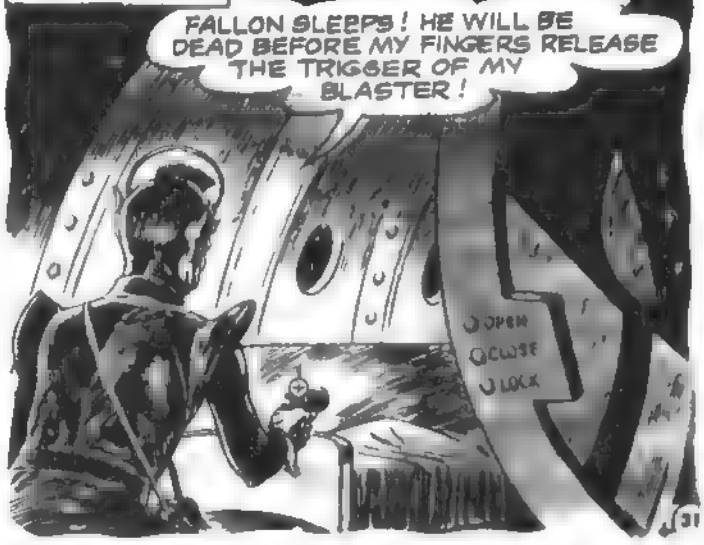
...THE END OF A VILLAIN--! SURELY IN EVERY AGE, EVERY ERA, INEVITABLE RETRIBUTION MUST COME TO MAN'S VILLAINY!
OOH! HURRY! HURRY!
YES, I'LL START US NOW...

--AND AS THEY SPEED BACK ACROSS THE MYRIAD CENTURIES...
WE'RE ALMOST THERE, RHOA, DEAR!
OH, I WANT TO BE THERE, I DO! I DO! I WANT TO GO AND LEARN THINGS AND JUST BE A GIRL AND BE HAPPY!
THE END

TERROR ON STATION ONE!

THIS IS SPACE STATION ONE -- A GREAT METAL WORLD SUSPENDED IN A MAGNETIC ORBIT ABOUT THE EARTH! HERE, CRUISERS BOUND FOR SPACE MUST LAND AND TAKE OFF... THE SPACE TRAVELLER'S HUB...

ON THAT METAL WORLD, A SHADOWY FIGURE ENTERS THE QUARTERS OF SPACE LIEUTENANT DAV FALLON...



BUT... A TOOTHACHE HAS KEPT DAV FALLON FROM SLEEPING THIS NIGHT AND...
OOH! THIS TOOTH -- WHA--? A VENUSIAN IN MY ROOM!

...THEN THE BURNING FURY OF AN ATOMIC BLASTER...
SINGED MY HAIR... BUT MISSED ME!

OOM LAH! DOES COMMANDER SLAR KAN KNOW OF THIS...?
YOU DIRTY EARTHER...OF COURSE HE KNOWS! HE LEADS THE REBELLION AGAINST...

REBELLION, HUH? YOU FOOLS...YOU'LL NEVER LEARN!
A BETTER DESCRIPTION WOULD BE SPACE PIRATES AND CUTTHROATS!

AS DAV FALLON OPENS HIS DOOR...
DAV! (SOB!) THEY HAVE CAPTURED THE SHIP!
...WE NEED A HOSTAGE!
KATHI!

YOU FOUL SLUG! STAY AWAY FROM HER!
IT'S A REVOLT, DAV! SLAR KAN HAS VENUSIANS IN ALMOST EVERY POST ON THE STATION!

EVERY EARTHMAN AND GIRL HERE RAYED DOWN WITHOUT A CHANCE!
IF VENUSIANS CONTROL THE SPACE STATION... THEY CAN ALSO CONTROL THE ENTIRE GALAXY!..AND NOBODY CAN STOP THEM!

EVEN THE WORLD IS HELPLESS BELOW US, KATHI! CITIES ARE UNPROTECTED! TEEMING WITH MILLIONS OF PEOPLE...DEPENDING ON US!
BUT WHAT CAN WE DO, DAV? ONE MAN AND ONE GIRL...AGAINST ONE HUNDRED VENUSIAN KILLERS!

SUDDENLY A HAND SHOOTS FROM THE SHADOWS!
OHHH!

M'SIEU FALLON...MA'M'SELLE KATHI! C'EST MOI...ENGINEER DEVEREAUX!
DEVEREAUX! CAPTAIN RAWLS! YOU'RE BOTH SAFE!

ONLY FOUR OF US LEFT, OLD BOY! THE REST WERE RAYED DOWN IN THEIR COTS!
IT WON'T BE TOO BAD...IF WE CAN REACH THE COMMUNICATIONS ROOM AND RADARGRAM THE EARTH FLEET!

BUT AS THE FOUR RACE DOWN THE CORRIDOR, A SOLID WALL OF VENUSIANS FLING THEMSELVES FORWARD...
GET BACK! THEY'VE FOUND US! IT'S KILL OR BE KILLED NOW!

ATOM BLASTERS TURN THE AIR BLUE WITH BURNING OZONE! IN THE CROWDED QUARTERS, DEATH CLAIMS MANY VICTIMS!
TOO MANY OF THEM! AS FAST AS WE SEAR 'EM DOWN... MORE OF 'EM MOVE UP!

GO ON! GET MOVING! I'LL HOLD THEM BACK! IT'S LITTLE ENOUGH TO DO TO SAVE THIS GATEWAY TO THE GALAXY AND FRANCE!

ENGINEER LOUIS DEVEREAUX IS CUT TO RIBBONS BY VENUSIAN ATOMBURNS-- BUT HE HOLDS THE CORRIDOR!
NO PIG VENUSIANS WILL EVER DROP A BOMB ON MY BELOVED FRANCE... I WILL STOP THEM!

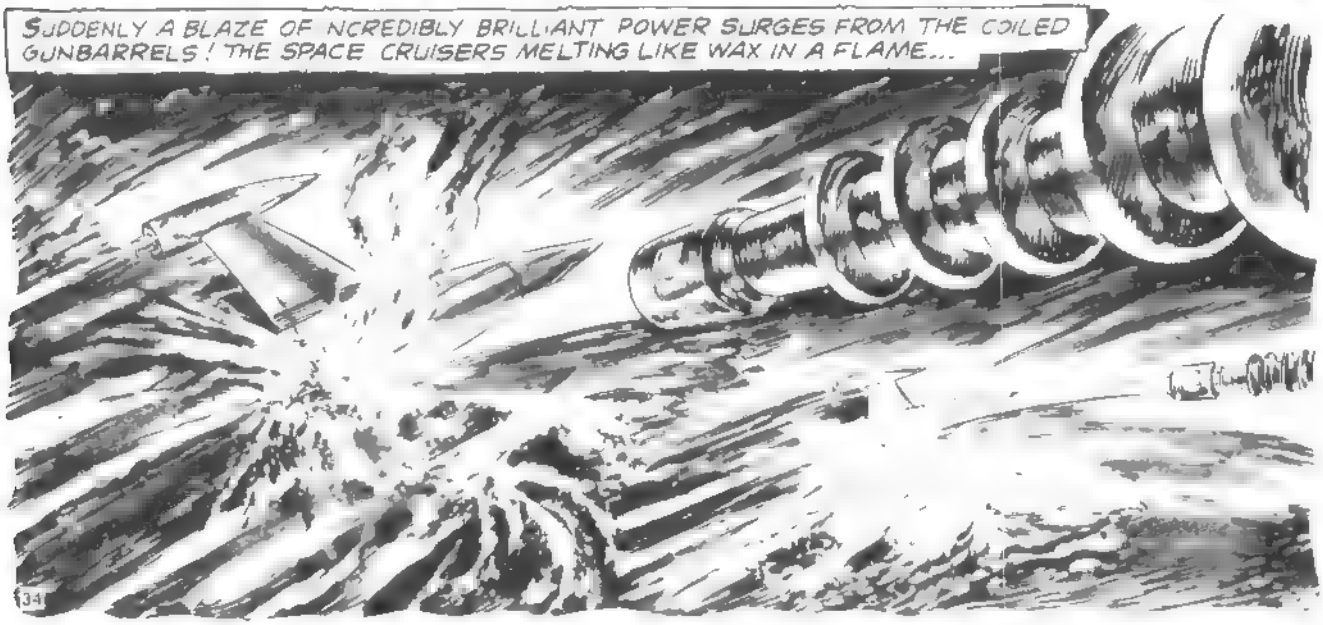
And WHEN HE FEELS THE COLD FINGERS OF DEATH CLUTCHING AT HIM, HE PULLS WIDE THE STUD OF HIS ATOMIC BLASTER--BLOWING HIMSELF UP!

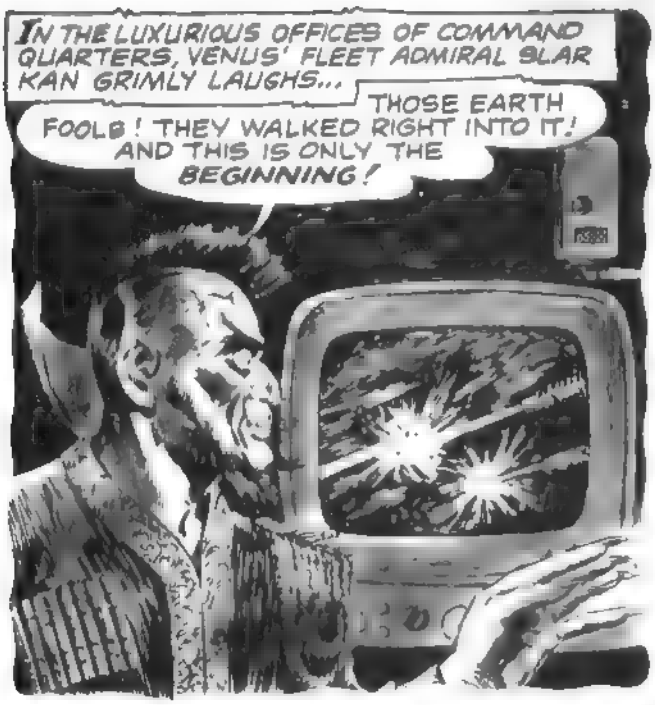
MEANWHILE, IN THE RADAR CONTROL ROOM...
THEY WEREN'T TAKING ANY CHANCES-- THE ENTIRE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM IS SMASHED!
THAT MEANS WE CAN'T SIGNAL THE FLEET!

THERE'S NO WAY TO STOP THEM--
LOOK-TWO SHIPS STOPPING TO RE-FUEL! IF THEY COULD SEE US, I CAN WIG WAG TO THEM THROUGH THE WINDOW...

THE SPACE STATION ALSO REFUELS SPACE DREAD-NAUGHTS WITH RADIOACTIVE URANIUM
I'VE GOT THE SIGNAL FLAG! JUST PRAY THEY SEE ME!

SLEEK RAY GUNS WHIRL IN THEIR GUNPORTS AS THE CRUISERS NEAR THE DOCKS...
THEY CAN'T SEE ME! THEY KEEP ON COMING!


SUDDENLY A BLAZE OF INCREDIBLY BRILLIANT POWER SURGES FROM THE COILED GUNBARRELS! THE SPACE CRUISERS MELTING LIKE WAX IN A FLAME...

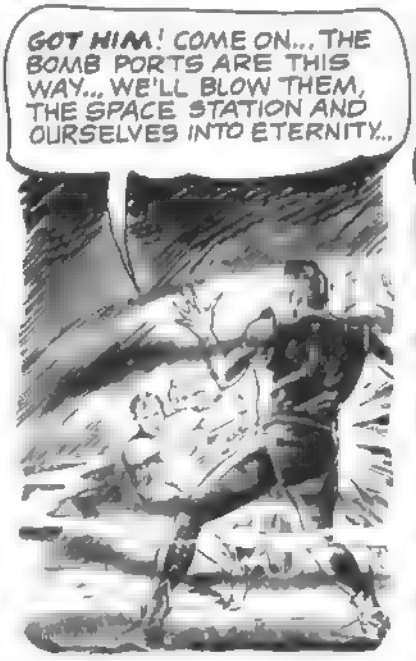

IN THE LUXURIOUS OFFICES OF COMMAND QUARTERS, VENUS' FLEET ADMIRAL SLAR KAN GRIMLY LAUGHS...
THOSE EARTH FOOLS! THEY WALKED RIGHT INTO IT! AND THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING!

ARE THE ATOM BOMBS SET? THE FIRING TUBES READY?
THE BOMBS ARE SET TO GO!

GOOD! SOON THE EARTH'S RICHES WILL BE OURS! - ALL OF IT! - WE'LL HAVE WEALTH BEYOND OUR DREAMS!

EARTH--WHICH UNTIL NOW HAS DOMINATED SOLAR SYSTEM TRADE AND COMMERCE... IS FINISHED! SHE'LL BE HELPLESS BEFORE OUR ARMIES AND VENUS WILL BE THE QUEEN IN INTERPLANETARY SPACE!
MARS
EARTH
VENUS
MERCURY

DAV, WHAT'LL WE DO? THOSE SHIPS OUTSIDE... BURNED TO MOLTEN METAL... (SOB)!
ONLY ONE THING TO DO! HE'S GOING TO ATOM BOMB EARTH'S BIGGEST CITIES! WE HAVE TO STOP HIM!


GOT HIM! COME ON... THE BOMB PORTS ARE THIS WAY... WE'LL BLOW THEM, THE SPACE STATION AND OURSELVES INTO ETERNITY...

BUT THE VENUSIANS HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR JUST SUCH A MOVE... AND PREPARE FOR THE KILL...
WE HAVE THEM!
BURN THE DIRTY EARTHERS WITH THE BLASTER-BEAMS!

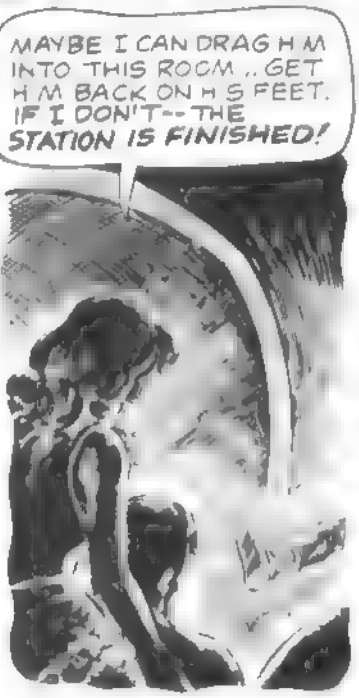
GOT ME... PAIN AWFUL... LIKE BEING... ON FIRE!
CAPTAIN RAWLS! DAV--WHAT'LL WE DO?

DAV!! AAAGGH!

WOUNDED, THE BURN OF A RAY BLAST BLISTERING HIS SKIN, SPACE LIEUTENANT DAV FALLON BITES HIS LIP AGAINST THE PAIN AND SHAKES OFF KATHI...
DAV... YOU'RE HURT! BADLY HURT! GET TO COVER!
GOT TO GET AS MANY OF THEM AS I CAN!

THERE GOES THE LAST ONE IN THIS BATCH! THE WHOLE WORLD DEPENDS ON US, KATHI! WE'RE THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN STOP THEM!
YOU CAN'T BEAT THEM ALL!

OH, DAV--YOU'RE DONE FOR! ... DAV, I CAN'T HOLD YOU UP!
EVERYTHINGS GOING BLACK... WHOLE PLACE... SHAKING AND TURNING FASTER AND FASTER...


MAYBE I CAN DRAG HIM INTO THIS ROOM .. GET HIM BACK ON HIS FEET. IF I DON'T-- THE STATION IS FINISHED!

TWO MORE VENUSIANS! THEY'LL BURN ME DOWN BEFORE I CAN GET INSIDE!

HER MUSCLES CRACKING WITH STRAIN, SPACE NURSE KATHI BOONE DRAGS LT. DAV FALLON INTO THE LITTLE ROOM...
THEY'RE RIGHT OUTSIDE!

SHE MADE IT! THERE GOES THE BOLT!
IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE, SLEE TOOM!

THEY'RE LOCKED IN THERE WITH NO PLACE TO GO AND NO WAY OUT! THEY'RE AS GOOD AS DEAD!
NOT ONLY THAT--

LOOK! THE EARTHER DOG DROPPED HIS BLASTER GUN! HE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A WEAPON, NOW! HE CAN'T STOP US!
HA! HA! HA!

INSIDE THE LOCKED CHAMBER...
LUCKY FOR YOU I HAVE MY NURSE'S KIT ON MY BELT, DAV FALLON! WE DID EVERYTHING WE COULD-- BUT WE'VE BEEN BEATEN!

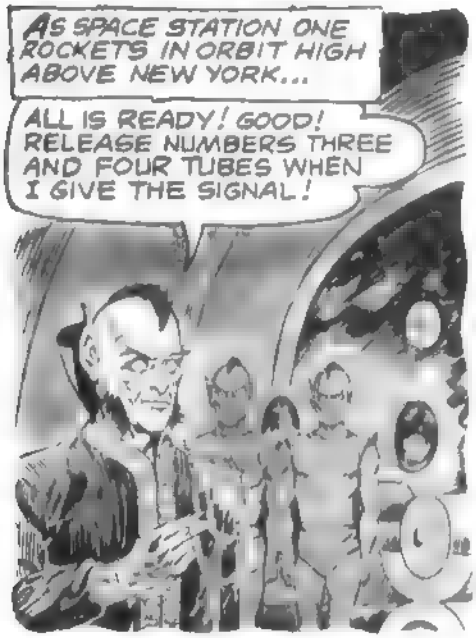
THEY BOLTED THE DOOR FROM THE OUTSIDE! CAN'T OPEN IT!

WE'RE ALMOST OVER NEW YORK! THEY'RE GOING TO DROP THEIR BOMBS IN A FEW MINUTES!
ATOM BOMBS ON NEW YORK! ON LONDON, PARIS AND THE GALAXY! AND I CAN'T DO ANYTHING TO STOP 'EM ..LOCKED IN HERE LIKE A MOUSE IN A TRAP!

KATHI! WHAT A FOOL I'VE BEEN! LOOK OVER THERE...
WHAT? ALL I SEE ARE THE PRESSURE GAUGES AND ELECTRONIC ATMOSPHERE CONTROLS!

EXACTLY... THESE LEVERS CONTROL THE FLOW OF GASES THAT MAKE UP OUR BREATHABLE ATMOSPHERE! IT'S THE BEST WEAPON I COULD'VE ASKED FOR!

IF WE CUT OFF THE OXYGEN IN THIS ATMOSPHERE, THE VENUSIANS WILL COLLAPSE! BLANK OUT... AND NOT BE ABLE TO FIRE THE BOMB TUBES! AND THE PORTABLE TANKS WILL PROTECT US!


AS SPACE STATION ONE ROCKETS IN ORBIT HIGH ABOVE NEW YORK...
ALL IS READY! GOOD! RELEASE NUMBERS THREE AND FOUR TUBES WHEN I GIVE THE SIGNAL!

BUT THE FACES OF THE VENUSIANS SUDDENLY PALE... HANDS REACH UP TO THROATS... ONE BY ONE THEY START TO COLLAPSE...
THOSE ACCURSED EARTHMEN! THEY'VE REACHED THE ATMOSPHERE ROOM! CUT OFF THE OXYGEN! WE'RE BLACKING OUT!

BUT VENUS FLEET ADMIRAL SLAR KAN STUMBLES! HIS HAND TOUCHES THE PIN RELEASE... BLACKNESS SETTLES OVER HIS BULGING EYES!
CAN'T REACH IT... BLACKING OUT... FAINTING THE EARTHMAN WON FROM US... WITHOUT A GUN IN HIS HAND...!
RELEASE

AND IN THE ATMOSPHERIC CONTROL ROOM...
WE'LL KEEP 'EM UNCONSCIOUS FOR A WHILE LONGER! A PATROL SHIP WILL DROP MEN ABOARD TO INVESTIGATE, THEN WE'LL BE FREED!
BEST OF ALL.. THE STATION IS SAVED!
THE END

THE CORPSE

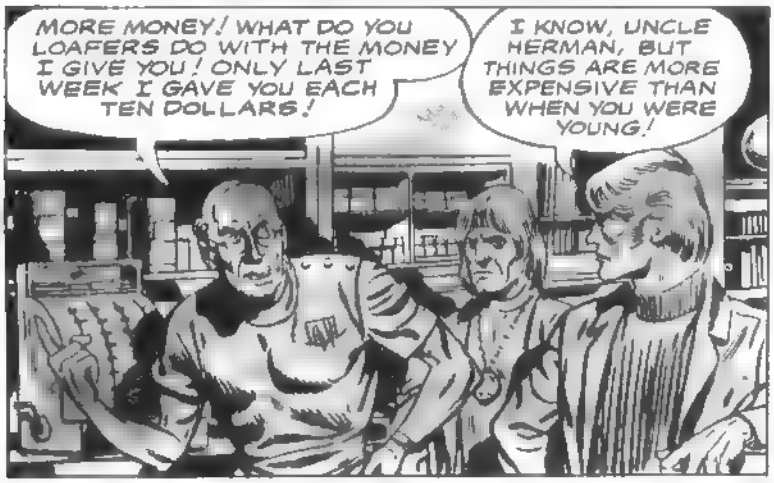
EEEEAHHH!

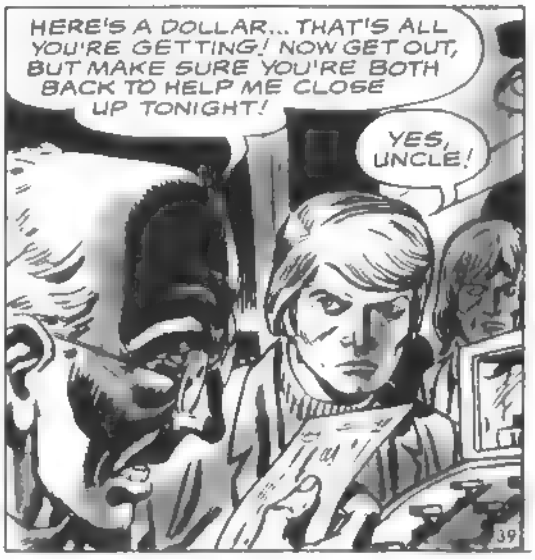
YOU'RE NOT LES... W-WHO ARE YOU? GET AWAY! OH! I MADE A MISTAKE! D-DON'T COME NEAR ME!

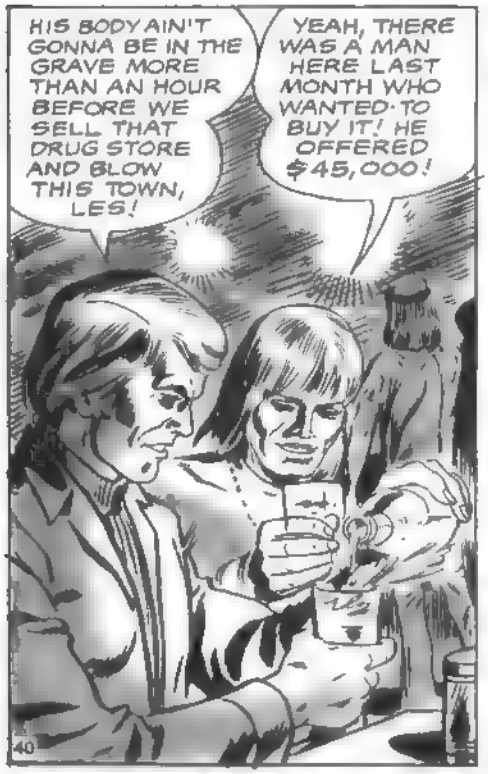
YOU MADE A MISTAKE AND BROUGHT ME BACK TO LIFE! BUT NO ONE MUST KNOW!

A CUNNING PLAN WITH A $45,000 DIVIDEND... A KILLER... DEAD BY THE ELECTRIC CHAIR... BUT BROUGHT BACK TO THE LAND OF THE LIVING! MIX THESE AND CHAOS WILL REIGN!

OUR STORY OPENS IN A LARGE DRUG STORE OWNED BY HERMAN DUANE... WITH HIM ARE HIS TWO NEPHEWS, DON AND LES...





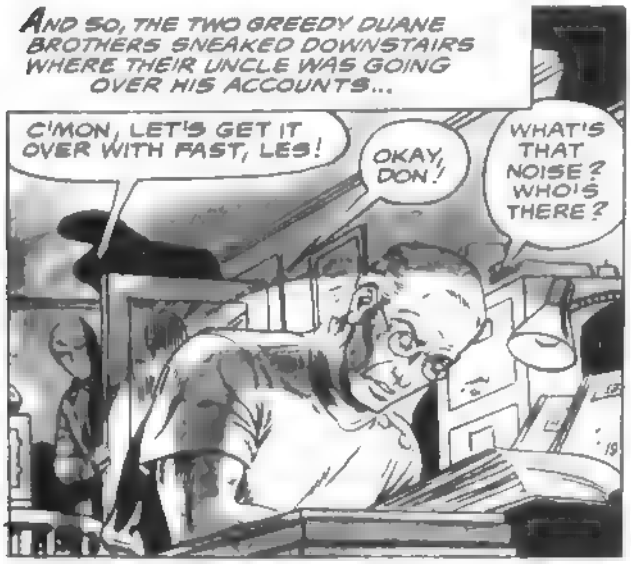


LATER, WHEN DON AND LES WENT BACK TO HELP CLOSE UP THE DRUG STORE...

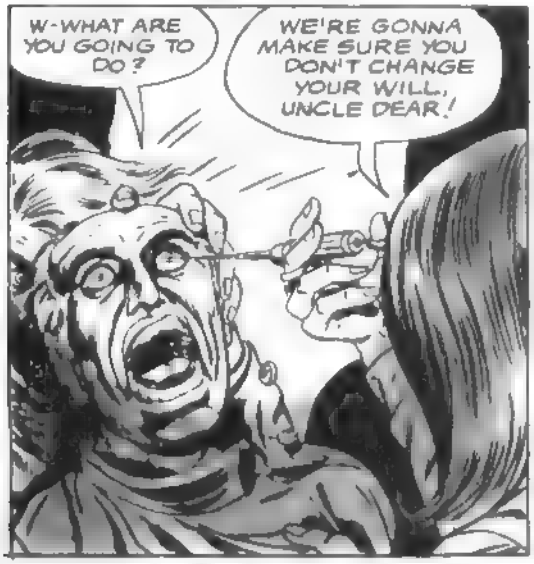
DRUNK AGAIN! I WARN YOU, BOYS... EITHER YOU CHANGE YOUR WAYS... OR I'LL CHANGE MY WILL!

...YOU HEARD WHAT HE SAID! WHAT IF HE CHANGES HIS WILL?
HE CAN'T CHANGE IT... WE'VE WAITED TOO LONG TO LET THE OLD MISER CHEAT US NOW!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, LES?
I AIN'T WAITIN' ANY LONGER FOR DEAR UNCLE HERMAN TO DIE! WE'RE GONNA SEE THAT HE CROAKS TONIGHT! I'LL GIVE HIM AN EXTRA DOSE OF HIS HEART MEDICINE WHILE YOU HOLD HIM!


AND SO, THE TWO GREEDY DUANE BROTHERS SNEAKED DOWNSTAIRS WHERE THEIR UNCLE WAS GOING OVER HIS ACCOUNTS...
C'MON, LET'S GET IT OVER WITH FAST, LES!
OKAY, DON!
WHAT'S THAT NOISE? WHO'S THERE?

OH, SO IT'S YOU TWO! IF IT'S MORE MONEY YOU WANT, I'M NOT GIVING...
NO, UNCLE WE'RE NOT HERE TO BEG FOR MONEY!
NO, UNCLE... WE AIN'T EVER GONNA BEG FOR ANYTHING AGAIN!

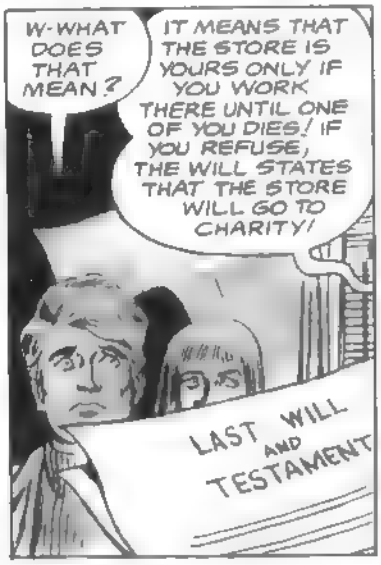

W-WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
WE'RE GONNA MAKE SURE YOU DON'T CHANGE YOUR WILL, UNCLE DEAR!

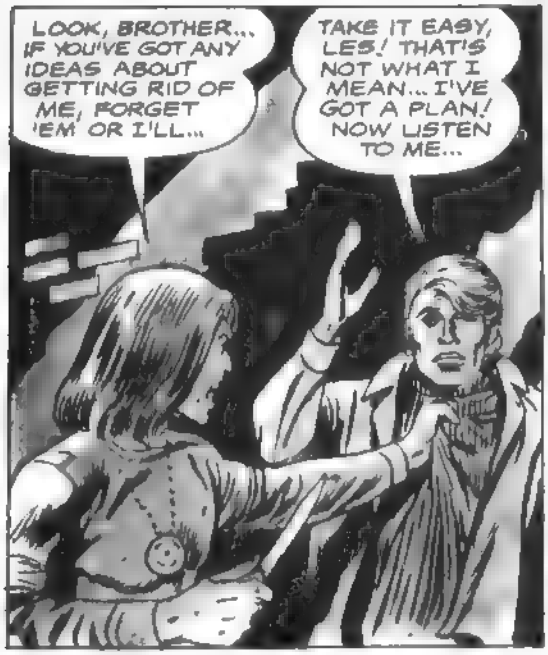
NO-NO, DON'T... UGHHH! MY HEART... GASP! MY HEART! I... I...
LES... H-HE'S HAVIN' AN ATTACK!
YEAH, CONVENIENT, AINT IT?

LES RETURNED THE NEEDLE TO THEIR ROOM AND PHONED THE FAMILY DOCTOR...

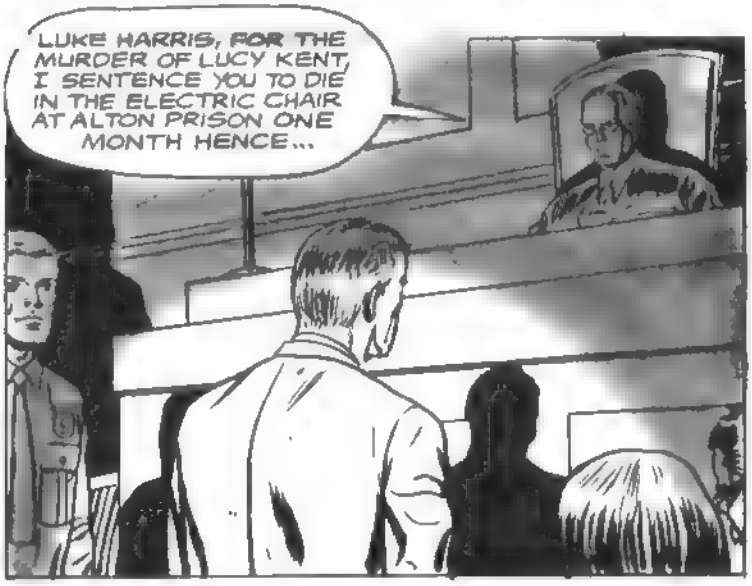
ONE NIGHT DON HAD A TROUBLED DREAM, OR WAS IT A DREAM...

...FINALLY THE WILL WAS READ AT THE LAWYER'S OFFICE...

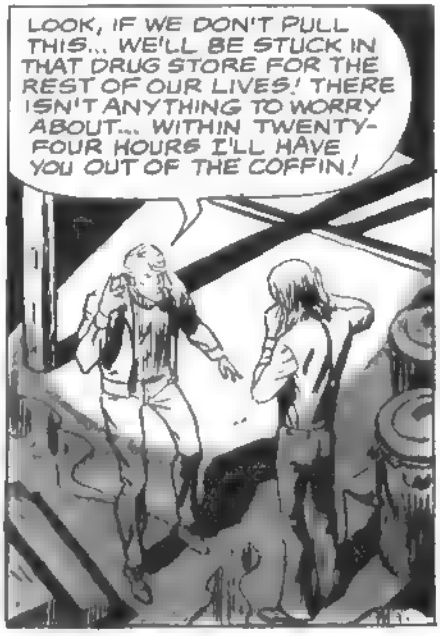




UNKNOWN TO LES AND DON DUANE, THERE WAS A SCENE TAKING PLACE IN THE COUNTY COURT ROOM...



AND BACK WITH DON AND LES...



THE BROTHERS DECIDED TO WAIT A FEW WEEKS TO AVON SUSPICION...

WITH THE DATE SET FOR THE SALE OF THE STORE, LES'S "DEATH" WAS SCHEDULED FOR TEN DAYS LATER...

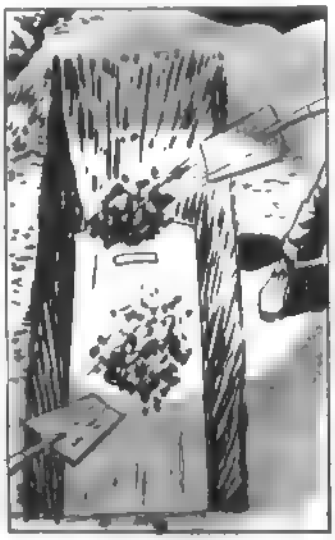
AND AT THE SAME MOMENT AT ALTON PRISON...

AND AN HOUR LATER AT THE DUANE HOUSE...

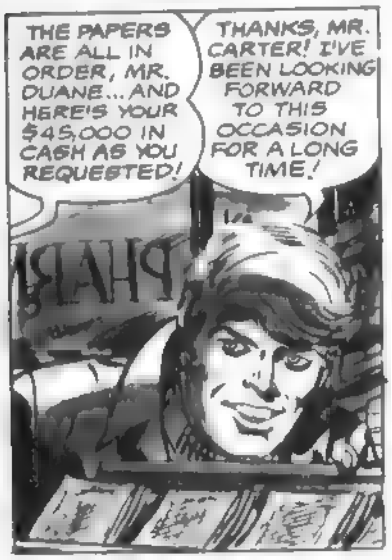
THE PLAN WAS WORKING PERFECTLY! DON HAD LES'S BODY SENT TO THE MORTUARY, WITH INSTRUCTIONS THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE EMBALMED!

AT THAT MOMENT AT THE BACK ENTRANCE TO THE MORTUARY...

AND SO, THE TWO BODIES WERE SWITCHED! BOTH MEN WERE BURIED THE NEXT MORNING...



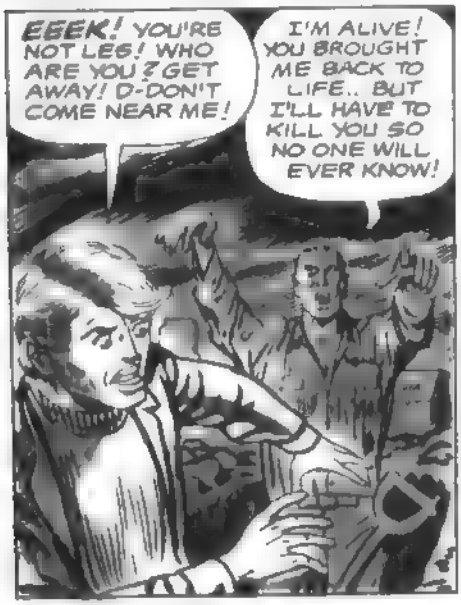
THAT NIGHT DON COMPLETED HIS DEAL WITH THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CHAIN STORES...



NOW ALL DON HAD TO DO WAS RELEASE LES FROM HIS IMPRISONMENT IN THE COFFIN...

DON INJECTED THE BODY WITH THE SERUM WHICH WOULD START AN UNDISEASED HEART PUMPING... BUT IT WAS LUKE'S HEART!

THE KILLER CAME TO LIFE!



...AND SO DON DIED QUICKLY...

DON'S SCREAMS WERE HEARD BY THE CEMETARY WATCHMAN... AND THE CHASE BEGAN...

HERE FATE STEPPED IN... FOR AS HE TRIED TO BOARD THE PASSING TRAIN, LUKE HARRIS'S FOOT HIT THE THIRD RAIL... THE LIVE RAIL AND...

BACK IN THE CEMETARY, THE EVENING DRAWS TO ITS HORRIBLE CONCLUSION...

BUT DON COULDN'T HEAR— HE WAS DEAD, TOO!

SOMEONE HELP ME! HELP.. OH GOD.. HELP!!
HELP!
IT COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE... AND YET IT WAS! WHERE HAD IT COME FROM? WHY DIDN'T IT STRIKE? WHAT DID IT WANT? THE MAN DIDN'T MOVE! HE DIDN'T BREATHE! HIS BRAIN WAS NUMBED AND HIS MIND WAS PARALYZED... FOR FACING HIM WAS THE WORST HORROR OF ALL...
DEADLY FANGS

JIM AND NORA WINTERS WERE A HAPPY COUPLE AND THEY HAD A LITTLE BOY...

PLEASE, HONEY! GET BOBBY INSIDE! YOUR UNCLE WILL BE HERE AT ANY MOMENT! YOU KNOW HOW HE HATES CHILDREN!

THE OLD GOAT!

FOR TWO CENTS, I'D TOSS HIM AND HIS MONEY RIGHT OUT THE WINDOW! HE'S BEEN BULLYING US FOR YEARS JUST CAUSE HE'S RICH!

I KNOW DEAR... BUT HE'S TOLD US WE'LL INHERIT ALL HIS MONEY! SO WHATEVER YOU DO PLEASE, PLEASE BE NICE!

BUT I DON'T WANNA GO TO BED RIGHT NOW, MUMMY! I WANT TO SEE UNCLE HUGO! I NEVER SEE HIM!

YOU WILL SOMEDAY, DEAR! NOW GO TO BED! SHOO!

AND JUST IN TIME, FOR A FEW MINUTES LATER...

SO GLAD TO SEE YOU UNCLE HUGO! HERE... LET ME HELP YOU WITH YOUR COAT!

NO NEED TO BE SO SERVILE, NEPHEW! YOU'LL STILL GET MY MONEY IF YOU FACE ME LIKE A MAN!

UNCLE HUGO WAS A RAT! BUT HE HAD MONEY.. AND HE KNEW HE ALSO HAD THE UPPER HAND! SO JUST TO MAKE THINGS A BIT MORE UNPLEASANT, HE GOADED THEM AT DINNER...

LOOK AT BOTH OF YOU! IN MY TIME PEOPLE LIVED! YOU TWO ARE NOTHING BUT FOOLS!

UH... MORE DESSERT, UNCLE?

NO THANK YOU, NORA? THINKING OF KILLING ME? NOT EVEN THE WILD BEASTS IN AFRICA COULD DO THAT! I HUNTED AND KILLED MANY IN MY YOUTH, YOU KNOW!

IN OTHER WORDS, UNCLE HUGO ENJOYED MAKING OTHERS SQUIRM!
WELL... SEE YOU TWO IN THE MORNING! DON'T HATCH UP ANY DEATH PLOTS FOR ME! HA! HA!
UNCLE HUGO!
IN FACT, HE DECIDED NOT TO SLEEP FOR AWHILE...
THEY WON'T GET A CENT, OF COURSE! I'M CHANGING MY WILL TOMORROW! THAT'S WHY I CAME HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE -- TO MAKE THEM THINK THEY'D BENEFIT! HA, HA... THE JOKE'S ON THEM!
AND THAT'S WHEN HE SAW THE SNAKE...!
GOOD LORD!
IT'S A KING RATTLER! I SAW THEM IN AFRICA! JUST ONE LUNGE AND I'LL BE DEAD!
ONE FALSE MOVE... ONE TWITCH OF MY MUSCLES, AND IT'LL LAY ME OUT RIGHT ON THE FLOOR! BUT HOW CAN A SNAKE BE HERE IN THE CITY? HOW?... LORD, THOSE TERRIBLE EYES!
IT KNOWS I'M SCARED, BUT IT HASN'T MADE UP ITS MIND YET WHAT IT'S GOING TO DO!

HUGO THOUGHT OF A DOZEN POSSIBLE MOVES... AND A DOZEN TIMES HE REJECTED THEM...
MAYBE IF I SHOUT FOR HELP? NO! THEY MIGHT HAVE PUT IT IN HERE TO KILL ME! ANYWAY... ONE ABRUPT SOUND... AND IT'LL SPRING!

I'VE GOT TO TRY MOVING AWAY FROM IT... SLOWLY... SLOWLY... MAYBE IT'LL LEAVE ME ALONE!...

SO FAR, SO GOOD! I'M HALF-WAY ACROSS THE ROOM! I'LL LICK IT YET! GOD... THOSE TERRIBLE EYES!

AND MOMENTS LATER HE REACHED THE DOOR... NOW JUST TO TURN THE KNOB...
GOT TO BE CAREFUL! MUST OPEN DOOR SLOWLY... I CAN FEEL ITS EYES BURNING INTO MY BACK! MUSTN'T TURN AROUND... MUSTN'T!

BUT HUGO DID...
I-I CAN'T HELP IT! IT'S MAKING ME TURN AROUND! IT KEEPS ON STARING AT ME! WHY DOESN'T IT DO SOMETHING? IT'S TORTURING ME!

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE ME COME BACK! MY WILL'S STRONGER THAN YOURS! NO... DON'T KEEP ON STARING AT ME THAT WAY! DON'T!

CONTINUED ON BACK COVER

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AND LARGER

AND SUDDENLY... THERE CAME A SCREAM...
WHAT WAS THAT?
IT CAME FROM UNCLE HUGO'S ROOM!
Y-Y-Y-A-A-A-A

IT'S ALL RIGHT, BOBBY! IT'S ALL RIGHT!
GOOD LORD!
MUMMY! MUMMY!

HE'S DEAD! BUT HOW? WHAT HAPPENED?
I... I DON'T KNOW! PLEASE STOP CRYING, BOBBY!

UNCLE HUGO'S DEAD... AND... AND I DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO SEE HIM! NOW I'LL NEVER SEE HIM!
SSSH, DEAR! GO PLAY WITH YOUR TOYS! BE A GOOD BOY!
FOR PETES SAKES WHAT'S THIS DOING IN HERE?

AND JIM TOSSED THE SNAKE INTO A NEARBY CHAIR, IN ORDER TO PHONE THE POLICE!
BOBBY'S TOY SNAKE!
THE END